

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2125

EXDIS

DEPT PASS THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: UNDOF COMMAND PROBLEMS

1. WALDHEIM'S SENIOR MILITARY ADVISER, FINNISH MAJ. GEN. KOHO, CONTACTED MISSION OFFICER JUNE 11 TO DESCRIBE UNDOF COMMAND PROBLEMS WHICH, HE SAID, WERE CREATING "CHAOTIC SITUATION" ON GOLAN FRONT.

2. BASIC DIFFICULTY WAS THAT UNEF CG SIILASVUO CONTINUED TO REGARD UNDOF AS SUBORDINATE ELEMENT OF HIS COMMAN, AND WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY WALDHEIM. EARLIER IN DAY SECRETARIAT RECEIVED COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM SYG TO SIILASVUO AND UNDOF CG BRICENO CLEARLY INDICATING THAT SIILASVUO WAS AT PRESENT IN OVERALL COMMAND. MEANWHILE, REPORTS FROM UNDOF PURPORTEDLY SHOW CONFUSION OVER TROOP DEPLOYMENT, LOGISTICS, ETC. KOHO ARGUED THAT IT SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO COMMAND A NEW, COMPLEX OPERATION WITH OUT BEING ON THE SPOT.

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3. WE SUGGESTED ONE ANSWER MIGHT BE FOR SYG TO APPOINT

BRICENO PERMANENT RATHER THAN INTERIM COMMANDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SC WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RAISE NO OBJECTION. KOHO AGREED; HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED USYG GUYER COULD BE PERSUADED TO RECOMMEND THIS SINCE WALDHEIM SEEMED UNWILLING TO STAND UP TO SIILASVUO.

4. COMMENT: AMB SCHAUFELER WILL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW UNDOF SITUATION WITH GUYER, AND TO EMPHASIZE, GIVEN SENSITIVITIES IN THE AREA, ADVISABILITY OF TOTALLY INDEPENDENT COMMAND FOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT ZONE. UNFORTUNATELY, USYG URQUHART, WHO HAS HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE SORTING OUT PROBLEMS ARISING BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD, IS PRESENTLY IN AUSTRALIA.
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